



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Mayor Chuck Reed,
Councilmember Sam
Liccardo, Councilmember
Ash Kalra, Councilmember
Madison Nguyen

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA HIGH SPEED RAIL
UPDATE

DATE: September 10, 2010

APPROVE

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Accept staff's report.
2. Direct staff to continue negotiations with the CHSRA to develop and complete a binding cooperative agreement on or before October 1, 2010 that ensures the City have authority to approve or reject any design and construction materials for the alignment through the Diridon area.
3. If an acceptable agreement cannot be reached by October 1, 2010, the City will seek a full study of the underground alignment as part of the full environmental review process at the October 7, 2010 CHSRA hearing.
4. Any agreement should also ensure that the City is given significant input on the design and noise impacts of building the Monterey Road corridor at-grade.
5. Agendize the October 5, 2010 Council meeting to consider the Cooperative Agreement.

DISCUSSION:

The City of San José has supported the California High Speed Rail project, and our Department of Transportation staff has collaborated well with CHSRA staff to explore the benefits and impacts of various alternative alignments through San José, including the Downtown. The City has worked to secure the right of way along the Monterey corridor and the City has received and invested approximately \$1 million to support the High Speed Rail project in the Diridon Station area to develop an integrated transit hub and transit oriented development. Following a series of community meetings the CHSRA revised the route through the Gardner neighborhood to reduce the impacts on that community.

Downtown San José is the creative and cultural center of Silicon Valley; the City has sought to create a world-class visual design environment for the Downtown San José area through a combination of high quality architecture, public art and urban design. Examples of recent projects that represent the San José's standards for quality architecture include the San José City Hall and the Mineta San José International Airport. The City has invested billions of dollars building a world class urban center and quality neighborhoods over the past 20 years. The High Speed Rail project must enhance those investments and add value to our City.

The City must ensure that a project of this magnitude, which travels the entire Monterey Road corridor, through the heart of our downtown and so many neighborhoods, meets our high quality standards. If the City and the CHSRA fail to reach an agreement by the proposed deadline, the City will then seek a further study of the underground alignment to protect our residents from the impacts of a project that does not meet our vision for our community.